

**Amendments to the Specification:**

This listing of the specification will replace all prior versions of the corresponding paragraphs of the specification in the application.

**Listing of Amended paragraphs of the Specification:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 12 to read as follows:

(Plasmids)

cDNAs encoding Notch  $\Delta E$ -M1727V ( $\Delta E$ ) and NICD with C-terminal 6 x c-myc tag inserted in pcDNA3 hygro were prepared in the manner described in Schroeter *et al.* (Schroeter, E.H., Kisslinger, J.A., Kopan, R. (1998), "Notch-1 signalling requires ligand-induced proteolytic release of intracellular domain", Nature, 393, 382-386). The cDNAs were gift from Dr. R. Kopan. N-terminally FLAG-tagged NEXT, i.e., FLAG-NEXT (F-NEXT), was prepared by 2-step site-directed mutagenesis. In the first step, F-NEXT M1727V was produced using the ExSite PCR-Based Site-Directed Mutagenesis Kit (Stratagene).  $\Delta E$  was used as a template, and the following two primers 1 and 2 (~~SEQ ID NO: 19~~ and ~~SEQ ID NO: 20~~) were prepared.

Primer 1:

5-P-ATCGTCGTCCTTGATGCTCTCAAGCCTCTTGCGCCGAGCGCGGGCA  
GCAGCGTTAG-3' (~~SEQ ID NO: 19~~)

Primer 2:

5-P-GACAAGATGGTGATGAAGAGTGAGCCGGTGGAGCCTCCGCTGCCCT  
CGCAGCTG-3' (~~SEQ ID NO: 20~~)

In the second step, F-NEXT was prepared by site-directed mutagenesis using Quick Change Site-Directed Mutagenesis Kit (Stratagene). The F-NEXT M1727V was used as a template, and the following two primers 3 and 4 (~~SEQ ID NO: 21~~ and ~~SEQ ID NO: 22~~) were prepared.

Primer 3: 5-CCTCGCAGCTGCACCTCATGTACGTGGCAGCG-3' (~~SEQ ID NO: 21~~)

Primer 4: 5-CGCTGCCACGTACATGAGGTGCAGCTGCGAGG-3' (~~SEQ ID NO: 22~~)